



Dear Reviewer:

In accordance with provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), we enclose for your review the *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS) for the Management of the subsistence harvest of northern fur seals on St. George Island, Alaska*.

This FSEIS is prepared pursuant to NEPA to assess the environmental, social, and economic impacts associated with NOAA proceeding with changes to the management of the subsistence harvest on St. George Island, Alaska. This proposed action would implement new regulations for the northern fur seal subsistence harvest on St. George Island, Alaska to allow for a harvest of male northern fur seals to meet the subsistence needs and implement new conservation controls. St. George Island residents have a need for long-term sustainable use of northern fur seals for subsistence purposes of cultural continuity, food, clothing, arts, and crafts. This FSEIS supplements the 2005 Final Environmental Impact Statement for Setting the Annual Subsistence Harvest of Northern Fur Seals on the Pribilof Islands. While this new proposed action does not change the northern fur seal take ranges, it would allow the limited subsistence take of male young of the year and change when and where the subsistence harvests can occur on St. George Island.

The FSEIS is available electronically on the NMFS Alaska Region website at <http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/protectedresources/seals/fur.htm> or from [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) and enter docket number "NOAA-NMFS-2013-0072" in the search bar. A printed copy of the FSEIS may be obtained from the Responsible Program Official identified below.

NOAA is not required to respond to comments received during the agency's 30 day comment period as a result of the issuance of the FSEIS. However, NOAA will review and consider comments received by September 22, 2014, for their impact on issuance of a record of decision (ROD). The ROD will be made available publicly following final agency action on or after September 26, 2014. Written comments on the FSEIS may be submitted by mail or facsimile (fax) to the Responsible Program Official identified below or electronically to the [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) portal.

Responsible Program Official:

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"NOAA-NMFS-2013-0072" in the search bar.



Sincerely,

for Patricia A. Montanio  
NOAA NEPA Coordinator

Enclosure